

Dear Chairman and members of the Senate Fish & Game committee,

My name is Russ Kipp; I am the President of the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association. I stand in **support of HB 372.**

With the passage of I-161 the non-resident sportsmen witnessed a **HUGE** jump in their license fees for no apparent reason and lost their ability to plan ahead. As a result many non-resident sportsmen have lost faith in Montana. They feel unwelcome and unappreciated.

Non-resident elk & deer license applications are down over 15,000 applications this year compared to the 2009 and 2010 non-resident elk & deer license application totals. To date the FW&P reports 1200 non-resident B-10 licenses remain unsold and very few "Coming Home to Hunt" licenses have sold resulting in over \$1,500,000. short fall for the FW&P. With the dramatic drop in interest for hunting Montana it remains to be seen if these licenses will sell out.

We don't need to wait a year to see the result of I-161, the huge drop in non-resident applications this year paints a very clear picture. Also keep mind that non-resident elk & deer licenses fees will increase annually due to I-161 further turning off non-resident interest in Montana.

HB 372 will help restore non-resident faith in Montana, as well as help them to plan ahead by adding some predictability as to when they might get a license to hunt Montana.

HB 372 is consistent with I-161; it treats all non-residents equal, it does not create an outfitter set-aside and it does create revenue for the FW&P.

**Please support HB 372.**

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